GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1997
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Providing Food Subsidy
Mahendran Shri C.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to move towards a new system of providing food subsidy through the normal food supply shops (including the Fare Price Shops), supplemented by new/ additional Fare Price Shops in remote and inaccessible regions where such shops do not exists and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether this could be achieved through the introduction of food stamps or the food credit card system and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the customers could use food credit/debit cards to buy subsidized foodgrains from the market and the retailers can claim the subsidy from the Government in the system and if so, the details thereof;
(d) the steps taken in this regard; and
(e) whether any discussions with the State Governments are conducted in his regard, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a) to (e): The States/UTs are implementing the National Food Security Act, 2013 through 5.26 lakh fair price shops (FPS) across the country. There is no proposal to provide food subsidy through shops other than FPS. However, Central Government in August, 2015 notified "Cash Payment of Food subsidy Rules, 2015". Under the Rules, the Central Government, with the consent of State/UT Government, transfer the food subsidy direct to the bank account of identified beneficiaries subject to certain conditions. At present this scheme is being implemented in Chandigarh & Puducherry and in urban areas of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
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